

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in the 3 years since 19 terrorists hijacked 4 planes and changed the course of American history, we have learned much about our vulnerabilities, our strengths, and the steps we must take to protect ourselves.

Tomorrow, America will remember the images of the Twin Towers collapsing, of terrified office workers jumping to their deaths, of brave New York City firefighters rushing into those burning buildings to save people trapped inside, of soot-covered men and women streaming out into the streets dazed and overcome. We will remember the shock of learning that a third plane had smashed into the Pentagon, and a fourth was possibly headed to the White House or the Capitol.

We will remember our sense of helplessness, our horror, and our utter disbelief as the terrible events occurred that bright morning, a morning not too dissimilar to today. In our grief on our day of national mourning, let us also recall our unity and those words of Todd Beamer to his fellow passengers on flight 93: Let's roll.

The highest priority of the Senate is to protect the safety and security of the American people. But as the 9/11 Commission report outlines, before 9/11 we were not attuned to the growing threat of Islamic terror. There had been attacks, and the attacks were growing bolder, but our attention was "sporadic and splintered across several committees."

Mr. President, 9/11 changed everything, and the Senate is committed to reforming its oversight functions so that it can, in the words of the Commission report, provide "strong, stable, and capable congressional committee structure to give America's national intelligence agencies oversight, support, and leadership."

Senator MCCONNELL and Senator REID are leading a leadership-appointed task force which is meeting to hammer out a legislative framework. We plan to consider that legislation no later than October 1. As has been discussed this week, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee is leading the reorganization of the executive branch. Under the superb leadership of Senator COLLINS and Senator LIEBERMAN, the committee is working diligently to address the Commission's recommendations. They started hearings immediately after those 9/11 recommendations were made to this body and to the country and continued those hearings through August, and now that we are back in session, over the course of this week.

On Wednesday, the Governmental Affairs Committee had another hearing

to discuss options. Those hearings will continue. Senator COLLINS and Senator LIEBERMAN will likely mark up legislation on the week of September 20, and the bill will then be brought to the floor the following week.

These dual efforts—one, the Governmental Affairs Committee dealing with the relationships and the definition and the legislation surrounding the executive branch, and the other led by Senators MCCONNELL and REID, overseeing the reorganization within this body—will present recommendations and that legislation to the U.S. Congress with the goal of strengthening our national security and safeguarding us, the American people, against future acts of terrorism.

The President and his administration, meanwhile, have already begun to address 36 of the remaining 39 recommendations, the last three currently being under study. Two days ago, we had the opportunity to meet with the President, Republican and Democratic leadership from both sides of the aisle in this body meeting with leadership and Members from both sides of the aisle in the House of Representatives, listening to his plans, his vision of intelligence reform.

On the Senate floor yesterday I spoke a little bit about the President's plan to establish a national intelligence director, the NID, to oversee these 15 intelligence agencies that we have. This afternoon, briefly, I would like to highlight the President's action to create a national counterterrorism center. We know that the intelligence community generates massive amounts of information. In the aftermath of 9/11, this point became tragically clear. There had been clues. There had been arrests, analysis, and warnings. But because these pieces of information were scattered across agencies and not properly shared, they became missed opportunities.

In the words of the 9/11 report:

The system of "need to know" should be replaced by a system of "need to share."

The national counterterrorism center President Bush has created by Executive order will act as a central knowledge bank, a clearinghouse where intelligence can be shared across agencies, can be prioritized, analyzed, and used in the field to thwart terrorist attacks. In other words, the left hand will learn what the right hand is doing.

I commend the President on his consistent leadership and his commitment to reforming our intelligence community. He is already transforming the FBI. He has led the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government in 50 years in the creation of the Homeland Security Department. He recognized immediately that terrorism was not merely a law enforcement issue but a grave threat to America, world peace, instability. It required mobilization of all of our resources.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as we continue to advance America's national security and im-

prove our intelligence functions. The 9/11 Commission report was bipartisan and unanimous. Likewise, I am gratified by my colleagues' sense of unity and shared vision in making America safer sooner rather than later, before "if" becomes "when."

#### THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 3 years ago this September 11, al-Qaida terrorists launched a brutal attack on American soil. Every American remembers that clear Tuesday morning when two planes smashed into the two World Trade Center towers in New York and brought them crumbling to the ground. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon outside Washington, DC. A fourth plane may have been destined for this very Capitol were it not for the heroic passengers on that flight who put their country ahead of their lives.

Today and every day we honor the innocent victims who died that day while conducting America's business. We also honor the heroic first responders—police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel—who rushed in to save others. We honor the volunteers of that day and every day forward who lined up to help their fellow Americans. Millions donated money, time, efforts, and blood.

And we honor the soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who have risked their lives so Americans don't have to live in fear of being attacked again. Some have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Our all-volunteer military is the best in the world, and as full of courage as the military heroes from our Greatest Generation.

It is worth looking at what we have accomplished in the last 3 years. President Bush has led America in a global war on terror to destroy those who would attack us again. We have made incredible progress.

We have led an international military coalition to eradicate two of the vilest terrorist regimes on Earth—the Taliban in Afghanistan, and Saddam Hussein in Iraq. We have liberated over 50 million people. Over 10 million have registered to vote in this fall's election in Afghanistan. And Iraq has national elections scheduled for early next year.

Using diplomacy and sanctions, and with the help of the international community, we have pressured a third terrorist regime in Libya to abandon its path to weapons of mass destruction, that could have been given to terrorists. The lesson of Saddam Hussein surely served as an example here, and should continue to serve as such to despots around the globe who would do us harm.

Of the senior al-Qaida leaders, operational managers, and key facilitators that our government has been tracking, nearly two-thirds have been brought to justice or had justice brought to them. And with the help of our allies, we have severely disrupted